

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 29, beginning on line 20 and continuing on page 30, to line 10, please amend the specification by eliminating the "bullets" and reformatting into conventional paragraph form as shown below. Please note that the current amendment requirements call for striking out words (or other characters) which are to be deleted. The present amendment endeavors to do so, but the Applicant notes that striking out of the bullets do not show up well. Please take this into consideration.

As has been illustrated, the method of the present invention described above can be useful in identifying cropping scenarios that optimize utilization of controllable farm resources such as land, capital, labor, water, machinery and chemicals in order to maximize farm profit or minimize resource use, and then minimize risk by identifying uncontrollable variables and alternative cropping strategies that are insensitive to these uncontrollable variables such as crop prices, yields and production costs. Furthermore, the present invention permits the user to quickly determine key production management information such as, for example: • the most profitable combinations of crops and acreage to maximize profits and minimize risk based on management objectives such as profit maximization, risk minimization, and stewardship; • how variances in prices, yields, and production costs could affect profits from different cropping strategies; • how profits from different cropping strategies are impacted by varying inputs such as capital, acreage, labor, water, machinery, etc.; • the costs versus benefits of risk management strategies such as diversification, commodity futures options, forward contracting and farm program participation; • the effects on profits of growing vs. buying feed; and • the effect of more or less acreage on profits, the amount of land to lease, and its production value.
